AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

A replacement sheet of drawings (Figure 2) is submitted herewith.

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the FINAL official action of February 4, 2008, wherein (a) claims 10-12 were pending, (b) the drawings were objected to, and (c) claims 10-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Kadaba US 6,539,360 B1 ("Kadaba") in view of Reed, et al. US 2002/0095454 A1 ("Reed") and further in view of Fisher, et al. US 6,047,264 ("Fisher").

Figure 2 has been amended to omit reference numerals 1, 2, 3, and 9, and it is believed the basis for objection to the drawings has been overcome; an indication to that effect is solicited.

Claims 10 and 12 have been amended. Amended claim 10 is directed to a method for the transmission of notifications to users of an electronic parcel compartment system within a postal shipping system, wherein the notifications are sent as SMS. This feature is originally disclosed on page 6, lines 18 to 25, of the application as filed.

Similarly, amended claim 12 recites a device for the transmissions of notifications to users of an electronic parcel compartment system within a postal shipping system, wherein the communication interface for the transmission of the notification information to receiving devices is an SMS gateway.

Reconsideration of the claims, as amended, is solicited.

Method Claims 10 and 11

The combination of the use of an electronic parcel compartment system on the one hand and SMS-based notification delivery on the other gives a high degree of flexibility to the users of the system. This is because electronic parcel compartment systems enable the pickup of shipments 24 hours every day without restrictions of opening hours. This advantage is combined in the current method with a notification system that informs the recipient of the shipment with a communication type that allows the recipient to receive the notification everywhere and ever time, without the handicap of known systems for which the recipient has to check emails or has to check the delivery status via internet. It is also advantageous over information delivery via a pager as mobile phones to which SMS are sent are much

more common. Thus, a broader range of people can be addressed and no special equipment is needed to participate.

It is not necessary that the user of the electronic parcel compartment system register into a data base of an electronic purchasing system. Any shipment of a private person to a recipient using the electronic parcel compartment system is sufficient to trigger the electronic notification via SMS to the recipient as soon as the shipment is delivered to the electronic parcel compartment system.

Kadaba discloses a method and a system for processing packages designed for a special handling and notifying in appropriate party as to whether special handling has been applied to these designated packages. The function of the special handling system 10 is to manage communication of data related to the actual handling and transport of packages using the carrier's central computer system 15 that is linked to the consignor's computer system 17 and an internet system 20 operated by the carrier (column 5, line 64 to column 6, line 1). The communications between these components are utilized to coordinate and manage special handling of designated packages, such as identifying, inspecting, and verifying special handling (column 6, lines 1-4).

An e-mail interface 14 is connected to the consignor's computer 17 by a wide area network 42 or the internet and to other computers within the carrier, such as an executive's PC 44 via a local area network 46 (column 6, lines 18-22). An internet interface 48 connects the central computer system 15 to an intranet 50 operated by the carrier. The intranet 50 includes an intranet website 54 that can be accessed by the central computer and also by terminals or PCs as permitted by the carrier (column 6, line 26-29). Consignors and consignees with knowledge of the tracking number can obtain the status of the package by consulting the web page (column 6, lines 51-53). The pager interface 70 connects the central computer system 15 to pages 72 carried by consignors and consignees, and pages 74 carried by carrier personnel such as those associated with the exception center 11 (column 6, lines 54-57). The entire system is designed to inform customers about packages that require special handling e.g. biological samples requiring appropriate cooling. In this regard it is provided that the carrier can notify the customer directly by e-mail, or by its signal to the customer pages 72, when the packages are available for pick up and

when the employee has picked up the package. Thus, the consignee may discover whether the shipment will arrive when expected and in the condition expected in two ways, by checking the internet or the intranet side or by receiving a communication from the carrier (column 9, lines 16-24).

According to Kadaba, the carrier receives the various packages, some of which require special handling, from a consignor. They may be received e.g. from various consignor locations during the evening. At step 101 the computer 15 receives PLD (pre-alert files) information via e-mail from the consignor computer 17 for packages being shipped on that day (column 7, lines 22-28). The pre-alert files are updated as the packages are scanned whenever they are handled at a consolidation point. The arrival, presence, and departure of the package as well as any noted exceptions are posted to the internet website 56 (column 8, lines 6-9).

However, and in contrast to the point of view expressed in the official action, Kadaba does not disclose or suggest that an event at an electronic parcel compartment system triggers the notification of a user of the electronic parcel compartment system. In fact, Kadaba does not explicitly mention an electronic parcel compartment system at all. Even more, Kadaba deals especially with the deposition of so-called "shipments which require special handling", like biological or hazardous material, which no user would deposit in an electronic parcel compartment system. Thus, the technical teaching of Kadaba leads away of the main component of the system of the current invention, which is an electronic parcel compartment system. Because of this, a person skilled in the art would never think of an electronic parcel compartment system while studying Kadaba.

Kadaba does also not disclose the possibility of sending notifications via SMS. As described above, only the combination of electronic parcel compartment systems that allow pickup of shipments at any time with a notification system in form of SMS that allows reaching the recipient also at any time enhances the flexibility and comfort of such a delivery method and system significantly.

Reed is related in general to an automatic communications system operative to transfer data, metadata, and methods from a provider computer to a consumer computer through a communications network.

Similarly to Kadaba, Reed fails to disclose that an event at an electronic parcel compartment system triggers the notification of a user of the electronic parcel compartment system. Reed does also not disclose the use of SMS for the notification of the recipient.

Consequently, a combination of the technical teachings of Kadaba and Reed does not lead a person skilled in the art to the subject matter of the present invention as defined in amended claim 10, especially not to the advantageous combination of an electronic parcel compartment system with notification delivery via SMS.

Device Claim 12

Amended claim 12 is directed to a device for the transmission of notifications to users of an electronic parcel compartment system. The device is adapted to receive information about events at the electronic parcel compartment system triggering a corresponding notification via an SMS gateway to the user of the electronic parcel compartment system for whom this event is pertinent. This feature is originally disclosed on page 7, line 15.

The technical features of the inventive device correspond to the technical features of the inventive method as defined in claim 10 and therefore it is submitted that the device according to amended claim 12 is new and not obvious for the same reasons that have been presented with regard to the inventive method.

Conclusion

Entry and consideration of the foregoing amendments and arguments after final rejection are believed proper and are solicited, as the amendment to the drawings is directed to a matter of form, and the amendments to the claims are presented to limit the issues and place the application in better form for allowance or consideration on appeal. The amendments could not have been earlier presented, as they are directed to requirements and bases for rejection first raised in the most recent official action.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the application is of proper form and scope for allowance, and such action is solicited. Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form in an effort to advance the application toward allowance, she is urged to telephone the undersigned at the indicated number.

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Respectfully submitted,

By_____

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